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TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORISM; PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION; MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

(APRIL 05, 2002)

NEWS:

TERRORISM

PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

OPINION:

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

1. HEADLINES

"U.S. ASSURES HELP TO PAKISTAN IN FIGHT AGAINST EXTREMISM," "FRONTIER POST" (04/05) (NOTE: MOST ALL ENGLISH AND URDU-LANGUAGE NATIONAL DAILIES GAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO THE PAS-RELEASED TEXT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOUTH ASIA DONALD CAMP'S SPEECH AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES). END NOTE.

"U.S. TO REWARD THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THE FAISALABAD OPERATION (AGAINST AL-QAEDA)," "DIN" (04/05)

"ARABS ARRESTED IN AREA OF LAHORE INNOCENT; THEY ARE NEITHER LINKED TO AL-QAIDA, NOR WERE BOMBS RECOVERED FROM THEM: DIG POLICE," "KHABRAIN" (04/05)

"ANOTHER 23 AL-QAEDA MEMBERS ARRESTED IN PAKISTAN; 21 WERE ARRESTED IN MANSEHRA, 2 IN LAHORE," "DIN" (04/05)

"PAKISTAN IS HARBORING UZBEK AL-QAEDA TERRORISTS: UZBEKISTAN," "JANG" (04/05)

"TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA LAUNCH ROCKET ATTACK ON COALITION FORCES; CONSPIRACY AGAINST KARZAI GOVERNMENT FAILS, DOZENS ARRESTED IN KABUL," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (04/05)

"SCRUTINY OF ISLAMIC CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S.; 19 LINKED TO THE SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY," "DIN" (04/05)

"U.S. SAYS THIRD COUNTRY INTERROGATION OF ABU ZUBAYDA NOT PRACTICABLE," "JANG" (04/05)

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"ISRAEL MUST PULL BACK TROOPS FROM PALESTINIAN AREAS:
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BUSH, "JANG" (04/05)

"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH; ARAFAT RESPONSIBLE FOR SITUATION;
SUICIDE BOMBERS ARE MURDERERS: BUSH, "NAWA-E-WAQT"
(04/05)

"MEETING WITH COLIN POWELL, AMERICAN MUSLIMS REJECT
BUSH'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY," "NAWA-E-WAQT" (04/05)

"WE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH SPECIFIC POLITICAL CHANGES
IN PAKISTAN: U.S." "DIN" (04/05)

"MUTTEHDA MAJLIS-E-AMAL (ALLIANCE OF ALL THE LEADING
RELIGIOUS PARTIES OF THE COUNTRY) WILL HOLD
DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL TODAY," "NAWA-E-WAQT"
(04/05)

-- NEWS

-- TERRORISM

2. "NO U.S. HOT PURSUIT INTO PAKISTAN: FRANKS,"

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"FRONTIER POST" (04/05)

QUOTE: AMERICAN TROOPS HUNTING SUSPECTED TERRORISTS
IN AFGHANISTAN DO NOT NEED TO PURSUE THEM INTO
PAKISTAN, THE HEAD OF THE WAR EFFORT SAID.... END
QUOTE.

3. "EFFORTS ON TO DECRYPT CODE WORDS OF AL-QAEDA
MEN," "DAWN" (04/05)

QUOTE: INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE THEY WILL FIND VITAL
CLUES ABOUT USAMA BIN LADEN AS SOME "CODE WORDS" HAVE
BEEN FOUND ON A WALL OF A KITCHEN IN THE FAISAL TOWN
HIDEOUT WHERE ABU ZUBAYDA AND 18 OTHER AL QAEDA
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MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED LAST WEEK. IN THE BACKDROP OF
MYSTERY SHROUDING THE FATE OF USAMA BIN LADEN, THE FBI

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AND PAKISTANI AGENCIES GAVE AN INDICATION ABOUT HIM, SAYING THEY HAD FOUND CERTAIN CODE WORDS INSCRIBED IN THE KITCHEN WALL DURING RAID ON THE AL-QAEDA MEN'S HIDEOUT ON CANAL ROAD SUCH AS "FRIDAY" DAWOOD AND ABU KAMEL", "SATURDAY" USAMA AND ANEES".... END QUOTE.

-- PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

4. "BUSH ADMIN AMBIVALENT ON REFERENDUM," "THE NATION" (04/05)

QUOTE: IN A RESPONSE MARKED BY AMBIVALENCE, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS AVOIDED DIRECT COMMENT ON PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF'S DECISION TO HOLD A REFERENDUM TO EXTEND HIS RULE.... END QUOTE.

5. "QAZI PLEADS SC FOR EARLY HEARING OF PETITIONS AGAINST MUSHARRAF," "FRONTIER POST" (04/05)

QUOTE: THE LAWYERS FOR JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI (JI) AMEER QAZI HUSSAIN AHMED HAVE FILED AN APPLICATION WITH THE SUPREME COURT PLEADING FOR SETTING AN EARLY DATE FOR HEARING OF THE PETITIONS CHALLENGING THE PRESIDENTIAL REFERENDUM AND MUSHARRAF'S ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY.... END QUOTE.

6. "TARIQ AZIZ TO RETIRE ON MAY 27," "FRONTIER POST" (04/05)

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QUOTE: THE CABINET DIVISION HAS ISSUED A NOTIFICATION TO THE EFFECT THE RETIREMENT OF PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE MR. TARIQ AZIZ ON MAY 27, 2002.... END QUOTE.

OPINION

-- MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

7. "ISRAEL AND FOREIGN MEDIA," AN EDITORIAL IN THE KARACHI-BASED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY, "DAWN" (04/05)

QUOTE: ... CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE ATROCITIES HIS TROOPS ARE COMMITTING IN RAMALLAH AND THE OTHER RE-OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TOWNS, ARIEL SHARON KNOWS THAT

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THE BEST WAY TO HIDE HIS CRIMINAL CONDUCT IS TO
DECLARE THE AREA A "MILITARY ZONE" AND ORDER ALL
JOURNALISTS OUT OF IT. THIS IS IN CLEAR BREACH OF A
TIME-HONORED PRACTICE: JOURNALISTS HAVE ALWAYS

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CONSIDERED IT THEIR RIGHT TO REPORT FROM THE FRONTLINES.... SHARON WAS A WAR CRIMINAL THEN; HE IS ONE TODAY. IT IS HE, AS THE REAL VILLAIN IN THE BLOODY MIDDLE EAST DRAMA, WHO NEEDS NOT ONLY TO BE REINED IN, BUT ALSO BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR WAR CRIMES. END QUOTE.

8. "UNITED STATES' GUILT ON PALESTINE," AN OP-ED BY NASIM ZEHRA IN THE CENTRIST NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NEWS" (04/05)

QUOTE: ... WASHINGTON'S PRESENT POSITION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE CONVEYS COMPLETE MORAL AND POLITICAL BANKRUPTCY.... IN A MORBID DISPLAY OF ARROGANCE,

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AMERICAN POWER DICTATES AND DEMANDS WHAT IS EMINENTLY ILLOGICAL.... PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH BELIEVES HIS ANTI-TERRORISM GAME IS 'ON-A-ROLL.'... WASHINGTON'S MEDIATION HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN ON THE SIDE OF THE ISRAELIS. THE TENET PLAN WAS ALSO IN LINE WITH THE ISRAELI DEMANDS.... WASHINGTON'S 'PARENTING' OF ISRAEL HAS BEEN DISASTROUS. UNITED STATES' PRINCIPAL ARAB ALLY HAS SPOKEN OUT ON THE U.S. ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.... THE WORLD LOOKS ON AS THE VERY PEOPLE THAT HAVE KEPT THROUGH NUMEROUS GIMMICKS THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST ALIVE, ARE REFUSING TO UNDERSTAND THE PAIN AND THE INJUSTICE INFILCTED UPON THE WRONGED PALESTINIANS. SUCH IS THE BLINDING POWER OF CONVOLUTED REASONING THAT WASHINGTON HAS LOCKED ITSELF INTO. HOWEVER, ONLY MORE CONCRETE POLITICAL ACTION BY THE ARAB STATES, IN SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIANS, WILL FORCE A RETHINK IN WASHINGTON. ONLY THEN WILL WASHINGTON UNDERSTAND THAT THE ERA OF INTERIM AGREEMENTS IS DEAD. IT IS TIME TO START WITH THE ABDULLAH PLAN; WITH ISRAELIS CONCEDING A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND THE ARABS RECOGNITION AND ENGAGEMENT TO THE ISRAELI STATE. END QUOTE.

9. "BUTCHER LET LOOSE AGAIN," AN OP-ED BY MASUD

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AKHTAR SHAIKH IN THE CENTRIST NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NEWS" (04/05)

QUOTE: THE 'BUTCHER OF BEIRUT' WHO EARNED THAT TITLE AFTER MERCILESSLY KILLING HUNDREDS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, MOSTLY INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN THE SABRA AND SHATILLA CAMPS DURING THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF

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LEBANON IN 1982, HAS BEEN LET LOOSE ONCE AGAIN TO QUENCH HIS INSATIABLE THIRST FOR HUMAN BLOOD....
CONTINUOUS PAMPERING BY AMERICA HAS SPOILED SHARON TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT HE NOW HAS THE AUDACITY TO BLUNTLY REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION URGING ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES OF THE WEST BANK. HAD ANY MUSLIM COUNTRY SHOWN THAT MUCH DISREGARD FOR THE WORLD BODY'S UNANIMOUS DECISION, SANCTIONS OF ALL SORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SLAPPED ON IT IMMEDIATELY AND THE DEFIANT COUNTRY PLACED AMONG THOSE WHO CONSTITUTE THE SO-CALLED "AXIS OF EVIL"! BUT HOW IS IT THAT NO PENAL ACTION HAS EVEN BEEN TALKED ABOUT IN THE WESTERN CORRIDORS OF POWER, AS FAR AS SHARON'S ARROGANT DISMISSAL OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IS CONCERNED? AMERICA IS AS TONGUE-TIED AS HER OTHER ALLIES IN THE ONGOING WAR AGAINST TERRORISM.... END QUOTE.

10. "U.S. MUST LEARN FROM HISTORY," AN OP-ED BY SALEEM YAZDANI IN THE LEADING MASS CIRCULATION URDU DAILY, "JANG" (04/05)

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QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES' UNWARRANTED SUPPORT TO
ISRAEL IS PRIMARILY TO BE BLAMED FOR TAKING THE
PALESTINIAN INTIFADA TO THIS EXTREME OF SUICIDAL
ATTACKS. HAD THE U.S. ATTITUDE BEEN BIPARTISAN AND
BASED ON JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAYS THEN THE LAW AND ORDER
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD HAVE BEEN
DIFFERENT. THE U.S. HAS RAPIDLY BEGUN LOSING THE
SUPPORT THAT IT HAD WON IN THE WAKE OF SEPTEMBER 11.
END QUOTE.

11. "DOES AMERICA WANT A GENOCIDE OF THE
PALESTINIANS?" AN EDITORIAL IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY
"DIN" (04/05)

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QUOTE: ISRAELIS ARE TAKING REVENGE ON THE PALESTINIANS FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS IN NAZI GERMANY, WHEREAS THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NO LINK WITH THAT WHATSOEVER. ISRAEL HAS TURNED PALESTINE INTO BOSNIA AND IS ENGAGED IN THE SAME KIND OF ETHNIC CLEANSING THAT THE SERBS CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE MUSLIMS THERE. ISRAEL IS ACTING ON A PLAN THAT PROMISES IT ONLY IF MUSLIMS ARE VICTIMIZED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THEY ARE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL TO ACT WITH SUCH BELLIGERENCE WITHOUT U.S. BACKING. U.S. SILENCE OVER ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS IS NOT WITHOUT REASON -- IT IS OPEN SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI PLAN, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS NOW ALONE IN ITS UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, EVEN ITS WESTERN ALLIES HAVE ABANDONED IT.... IN THE LATEST SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, FRANCE PROPOSED THE DEPLOYMENT OF UN TROOPS IN PALESTINE TO MONITOR THE CEASEFIRE. HOWEVER, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL. SUCH AN ATTITUDE JUSTIFIES THE MUSLIM WORLD'S QUESTION TO THE U.S.: IS IT A PARTY TO THE ISRAELI PLAN OF PALESTINIANS' ETHNIC CLEANSING? END QUOTE. SISON

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